

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 01080 161610Z

73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 MC-02 /067 W
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R 161533Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 750

DOD WASHDC

OSAF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB

USCINCEUR VAINGEN

AFSC ANDREWS AFB

ASD WPAFB OH/YP

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1080

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS DA

SUBJ: LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER REPLACEMENT: DANES BACK ON TRACK

REF: COPENHAGEN 1068

1. MOST OF THE DANISH PRESS HAD SORTED ITSELF OUT IN
TODAY'S (APRIL 16) EDITIONS ON THE QUESTION OF THE
DUTCH GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE LIGHTWEIGHT PURCHASE.
THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE DUTCH
LABOR PARTY WAS EMPHASIZED WITH THE DUTCH PRIME MINISTER
QUOTED AS NOTING THAT THE DECISION DID NOT BIND THE
GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD CARRY THROUGH ON ITS "ORIGINAL"
INTENTION. DENMARK'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATS REPORTEDLY HAVE
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PAGE 02 COPENH 01080 161610Z

BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS AND THEIR EMBASSY

IN THE NETHERLANDS. BERLINGSKE TIDENDE EDITORIALY CALLED ON THE DANISH GOVERNMENT TO PROCEED WITH ITS ORIGINAL PLANS (TO PURCHASE THE F-16) AND URGED THE GOVERNMENT NOT TO WAIT OUT EVENTUALITIES IN THE NETHERLANDS.

2. THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE REPORT APPEARS IN POLITIKEN (RADICAL INDEPENDENT) WHICH FORECAST THAT THE CABINET RECOMMENDATION SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 15 WILL BE TAKEN NEXT TUESDAY, APRIL 22, AND THAT FINAL PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL WILL BE OBTAINED BEFORE THE END OF APRIL. POLITIKEN PREDICTS THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARY GROUP (AND PARLIAMENT AS A WHOLE) WILL SUPPORT A RECOMMENDATION BY THE GOVERNMENT TO BUY THE F-16.

3. IN A HURRIED CONVERSATION WITH POLCOUNS, FOLKETING DEFENSE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ARNE CHRISTIANSEN (LIBERAL) CONFIRMED THE ACCURACY OF THE POLITIKEN STORY, SAYING "EVERYTHING WAS BACK ON TRACK".

4. DUTCH AMBASSADOR PUTMAN CRAMER TOLD THE AMBASSADOR TODAY THAT YESTERDAY'S DANISH PRESS REPORTS WERE FOR THE MOST PART COMPLETELY INACCURATE, THAT THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT WOULD PERSIST IN ITS ORIGINAL DECISION TO BUY THE F-16, AND THAT THE DUTCH PARLIAMENT HAS ALREADY AUTHORIZED FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE.
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